

WE CLAIM:

1. A digital video recorder (DVR) for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data by tuning to at least one of a plurality of channels, the STB comprising a DVR interface, the DVR comprising
 - (a) a local memory for storing the program data received from the STB;
 - (b) a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface; and
 - (c) a DVR controller for:
 - communicating control data to direct the STB to tune to a selected channel; and
 - receiving a channel-change event from the STB in connection with the STB changing the tuned channel.
2. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the channel-change event is received by the DVR after the STB changes the tuned channel.
3. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the channel-change event is received by the DVR when a user directs the STB to change the tuned channel and before the STB changes the tuned channel.
4. The DVR as recited in claim 2, wherein the DVR transmits a control signal to the STB authorizing the STB to change the tuned channel.

5. A Set Top Box (STB) for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the
DVR comprising a STB interface, the STB comprising:

- (a) a tuner for demodulating program data by tuning to at least one of a plurality of
channels, wherein the program data is communicated to the DVR for recording;
- (b) a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface; and
- (c) a STB controller for:

receiving control data from the DVR for directing the STB to tune to a selected
channel; and
communicating a channel-change event to the DVR in connection with the STB
changing the tuned channel.

6. The STB as recited in claim 5, wherein the STB communicates the channel-change event
to the DVR after the STB changes the tuned channel.

7. The STB as recited in claim 5, wherein the STB communicates the channel-change event
to the DVR when a user directs the STB to change the tuned channel and before the STB
changes the tuned channel.

8. The STB as recited in claim 6, wherein the STB receives a control signal from the DVR
authorizing the STB to change the tuned channel.

1 9. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a
2 digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB),
3 the STB for demodulating program data by tuning to at least one of a plurality of
4 channels, the DVR comprising a local memory, the computer program comprising code
5 segments for:

- 6 (a) receiving the program data from the STB;
7 (b) storing the program data in the local memory;
8 (c) communicating control data to direct the STB to tune to a selected channel; and
9 (d) receiving a channel-change event from the STB in connection with the STB changing
10 the tuned channel.

1 10. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a set
2 top box (STB), the STB for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the
3 computer program comprising code segments for:

4 (a) demodulating program data by tuning to at least one of a plurality of channels;

5 (b) communicating the program data to the DVR for recording;

6 (c) receiving control data from the DVR for directing the STB to tune to a selected
7 channel; and

8 (d) communicating a channel-change event to the DVR in connection with the STB
9 changing the tuned channel.